

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09412 221650Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 221515Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6652

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9412

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, EG

SUBJECT: MOBIL'S PARTICIPATION IN RETURN OF SINAI OIL FIELDS

TO EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 9123; CAIRO 8777

1. EMBOFF AGAIN DISCUSSED MOBIL PARTICIPATION IN RAS AL-SIDR AREA OIL FIELD CEKEOVER SEPTEMBER 21 WITH SPIELMAN, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM MOBIL INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEETING IN MADRID. ACCORDING TO SPIELMAN, MOBIL EXPECTS EGYPTIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN FINANCING OF TEAM ALONG LINES MENTIONED STATE 223795. HE DID NOT INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT FULL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED. SPIELMAN STILL CONTENDS THAT INFORMATION WHICH MOBIL HAS OBTAINED FROM ISRAEL SOURCES IS THAT THESE FIELDS ARE NO RPT NO LONGER PRODUCING. IT IS MOBIL'S INTENTION, THEREFORE, INITIALLY TO SEND TEAM WHICH WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO VERIFY PRODUCTION AND DETERMINE WHAT OTHER RESOURCES ARE NEEDED, IF ANY.

2. FURTHER TO MAKING ADVANCE ARRANGEMENTS, SPIELMAN TOLD US THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE TOLD MOBIL THEY WILL USE PIER WHICH EXISTED IN 1967 TO EXPORT OIL. ACCORDING TO MOBIL INFORMATION, AGAIN FROM THE ISRAELIS, PIER WAS NOT USED DURING OCCUPATION. INSTEAD, OIL FROM RAS AL-SIDR, ASL AND MATARMA WAS TRUCKED BY ISRAELIS TO SOME OTHER DISTRIBUTION POINT. MOBIL, THEREFORE, IS
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ALSO UNABLE TO CONFIRM POSSIBILITY OF OPERATING LOADING FACILITIES

UNTIL IT IS ACTUALLY ON THE GROUND AT THE FIELDS.

3. MOBIL CLEARLY PLACES GREAT WEIGHT ON ITS INFORMATION THAT WELLS ARE NOT RPT NOT NOW PRODUCING. THIS IS NOT RPT NOT IN ACCORD WITH WHAT ISRAELIS HAVE TOLD US AND HAVE INDICATED AT GENEVA TALKS. IT SEEMS DESIRABLE URGENTLY TRY TO VERIFY FACTS SINCE, IF RAS AL-SIDR FIELDS ARE IN FACT NOT PRODUCING. EGYPTIANS WILL CHARGE NEW ISRAELI DECEPTION AND ALSO BLAME US ON GROUNDS WE, TOO, TOLD EGYPTIANS THESE FIELDS ARE OPERATING.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OIL FIELDS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO09412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850081-2340, N750004-0574
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750927/aaaaaxsa.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 75 CAIRO 9123, 75 CAIRO 8777
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBIL'S PARTICIPATION IN RETURN OF SINAI OIL FIELDS
TAGS: EIND, ENRG, EG, IS, MOBIL OIL
To: STATE SS GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006